IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants Mathew VADAS et al.

Title: A SCREENING METHOD FOR AN AGENT HAVING AN EFFECT ON A SPHINGOSINE KINASE SIGNALING PATHWAY

Prior Appl. No.: 09/977,217

Prior Appl. Filing Date: 10/16/2001

Examiner: Ralph GITOMER

Art Unit: 1651

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the present Continuing Application, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this document.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begin on page 3 of this document.

Remark begin on page 4 of this document.

Please amend the application as follows: